

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 HA-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10
NSAE-00 PA-01 ICA-11 SP-02 /053 W
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R 150933Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7681
INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA
AMEMBASSY COLOMBO
AMEMBASSY DACCA
AMEMBASSY KABUL
AMCONSUL KARACHI
AMCONSUL LAHORE
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBAJEY TEHRAN
CINCPAC

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE ISLAMABAD 5830

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, SHUM, PK
SUBJECT: BENAZIR BHUTTO'S DETENTION VOIDED: FREED BUT FOR HOW
LONG?

REF: A) ISLAMABAD A-33, B) ISLAMABAD 1828

1. FORMER PRIMIN BHUTTO'S DAUGHTER BENAZIR, WHO HAS BEEN UNDER
HOUSE ARREST IN KARACHI SINCE MARCH 18, WAS RELEASED JUNE 15
AFTER THE SIND HIGH COURT GRANTED HER HABEAS CORPUS PETITION. THE
COURT HELD THAT BENAZIR'S DETENTION BY THE SIND GOVERNMENT UNDER
THE PROVISIONS OF THE MAINTENANCE OF PUBLIC ORDER ORDINANCE WAS
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"WITHOUT LAWFUL AUTHORITY."

2. BENAZIR WAS ALMOST IMMEDIATELY RELEASED FROM HER CONFINEMENT,
AND THE GUARDS POSTED AROUND THE BHUTTO'S COMPOUND IN KARACHI
HAVE REPORTEDLY BEEN REMOVED. SHE IS SAID TO BE HEADING FOR
RAWALPINDI, PRESUMABLY SO SHE CAN BE NEAR HER FATHER.

3. COMMENT: THE SIND COURT'S JUDGEMENT IS INDICATIVE OF THE INDEPENDENCE THAT EXISTS WITHIN THE UPPER REACHES OF PAKISTAN'S JUDICIARY, EVEN DURING MARTIAL LAW. BENAZIR'S FREEDOM MAY BE SHORT-LIVED, HOWEVER. HER FIERY ORATORY IN DEFENSE OF HER FATHER EARLIER IN THE YEAR IS WHAT GOT HER INTO TROUBLE WITH THE

CIVILIAN AUTHORITIES, AND THE MARTIAL LAW ADMINISTRATION (MLA) WILL NO DOUBT NOW CLOSELY MONITOR HER STATEMENTS AND ACTIONS. IF BENAZIR CHOOSES TO CHALLENGE THEHBLA, SHE COULD BE DETAINED UNDER MARTIAL LAW REGULATION #33 (REF A), WHICH BANS POLITICAL ACTIVITY AND FROM WHICH THERE IS NO APPEAL TO CIVILIAN COURTS. HUMMEL

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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